11
STORY BY TADASHI KAWASHIMA
ART BY ADACHITOKA
ALIVE
The Final Evolution

ALIVE

THE FINAL EVOLUTION

We are alive on this planet, and they arrived...

11

STORY / TADASHI KAWASHIMA
ART / ADACHITOKA



Yuta Takizawa

POWER : ISOLATION

A FIFTH GRADER WHO'S VERY MATURE FOR HIS AGE. LIVES WITH HIS GRANDPARENTS.



Nami Kusunoki

POWER : ICE CLAWS

A HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT LIVING IN MORIOKA. COUPLED WITH HER POWER, SHE'S ALSO A MASTER-LEVEL MARTIAL ARTIST.



Youko Kanou

A STRONG-WILLED, DEPENDABLE WOMAN WHO WORKS AS A HIGH SCHOOL NURSE. CURRENTLY WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF HER MISSING BROTHER, TAISUKE.



Aoi Tezuka

POWER : SUPER SPEED

A BLONDE, BLUE-EYED GIRL WHO TRANSFERRED INTO YUTA'S CLASS IN ORDER TO MONITOR HIM.

contents

▭ = COMRADE



McPherson, SFC;

A SERGEANT AND MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES ASSIGNED TO PROTECT ACRO'S HEART.



Kyouko Amamiya

A REPORTER INVESTIGATING THE TRUTH BEHIND THE MASS SUICIDE. SHE'S CURRENTLY CHASING AFTER ACRO'S HEART.



Masashi Oda

FELLOW REPORTER AND AMAMIYA'S JUNIOR. SEEMS LIKE THE OFFICE FOOL, BUT IS SURPRISINGLY THOROUGH WITH HIS WORK?



Ron Hasegawa

POWER : CAN TURN HIS BODY INTO A GEL STATE.

AN ORPHAN WHO LIVES AT A CHILDREN'S HOME. HE HELPS OUT WITH AMAMIYA'S INVESTIGATION.



ALIVE

We are alive on this planet, and they arrived... THE FINAL EVOLUTION


YUTA-KUN?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS LATE?
TWITCH
I TOLD YOU NOT TO FALL IN WITH THE WRONG CROWD...
?!
RATTLE
IF ONLY YOUR FATHER-


I'M GOING TO SEE MY FRIEND!
Chapter 39
I Don't Know
Man is the only creature that refuses to be what he is.
H-HEY! STOP RIGHT THERE, YOUNG MAN!
DASH
SORRY!
CHK
THUD
BURNABLE TRASH
MON - WED - FRI
PC


IF YOU WANT TO SEE TAISUKE...
...THEN COME HERE AGAIN AT NIGHT.
HOWEVER...
...YOU MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE TO GO HOME.


HUFF
HUFF
PHEW
...
NAMI KUSUNOKI HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.
I COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH NAMI NEE-CHAN.
CAN I REALLY TRUST THESE GUYS?
BUT...
I HAVE TO GO!
DING DONG
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP


CREAK
YUTA!
HUH?
WH-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU DID A GOOD JOB.


IN SPITE OF YOUR EXTREME DISLIKE OF PEOPLE.
...
EVERYONE, SAY HI TO OUR GUESTS!
THIS IS JUN, THE SECOND OLDEST BROTHER.
きょど SHIFT きょど SHIFT
ぶ POUT
THE SECOND OLDEST, AOI.
THE OLDEST SISTER, ANZU.
ボ DAZE
AND ME, REI, THE OLDEST BROTHER.
NICE TO MEET'CHA!


THUD
THUD
I DON'T WANT TO BRING THEM WITH US!
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO JUN. YOU MIGHT BREAK HIM.
...
NO! NO!
WHAP
じたばた
じたばた
WHAP
SHUT UP, AOI...
GYAH
THEY ACT LIKE SIBLINGS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
Aoi's a kid, too.
GYAH
THOSE TWO AREN'T COMRADES ...
ALSO ...
SO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, NAMI NEE-CHAN?
DON'T IGNORE ME!
THAT COMRADE, JUN, CAME TO MY HOUSE.


A
BZZ
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO ATTACK ME...
BZZ
P-
PLEASE!
TWITCH
!
C-
COME WITH ME...
...TO MEET...
...TAISUKE!


BUT HE WAS SUPER SUSPICIOUS AND PEEKED IN THE GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM. HE EVEN HID IN THE GIRLS' BATHROOM.
I couldn't trust him so easily.
THAT JUST MAKES HIM A PERVERT, THEN!
BZZT
MOM TOLD JUN TO WATCH NAMI KUSUNOKI, THAT'S ALL.
DON'T WORRY.
HE'S A REAL MAMA'S BOY, SO HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN OTHER GIRLS.
KRKL
Ah!
I SEE. WELL, IN THAT CASE...
Phew
THAT'S IT?!
You're just gonna ignore the rest?
WHY WERE YOU SPYING ON US?
WE HAD TO CONFIRM WHO YOU TWO REALLY WERE.


IT WOULD BE BAD FOR US IF YOU WERE WORKING FOR KATSUMATA.
YOU KNOW KATSUMATA?
YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK MAMA ABOUT THAT.
SO...
IS KANOU SAFE, THEN?
IS HE ALL RIGHT?
WELL ...


YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU SEE HIM.
I STILL DON'T LIKE IT...
V
R
R
R


WHY LET THE ONES WHO RAN AWAY SEE HIM?
...
... NOW
HNN
THE BODY OF AN FOREIGN MAN WAS FOUND IN AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE IN YOKOSUKA. THE CAUSE OF DEATH APPEARS TO BE GUNSHOTS.
THE MAN HAS YET TO BE IDENTIFIED ...


AMAMIYA'S AWAKE!
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
LUCKILY YOUR CHEST WOUND WAS SHALLOW.
...
TH-
THAT'S RIGHT. I FOUND CLAY DEAD IN THE WARE-HOUSE.
AND THEN ...
FT
UMP
WHY AM I STILL ALIVE?


AMAMIYA-SAN + RON-KUN = RAIN
KNIFE < RAIN
KNIFE
RAIN
BECAUSE YOU'RE FLAT AS A BOARD!
BLRGH
STAB
RON-KUN MADE UP MOST OF YOUR CHEST!
BRGH! I SAW WHO STABBED YOU!
IT WAS THIS GUY!
THE NOSELESS MAN...
THE OTHERS CALLED HIM SERGEANT MCPHERSON!
I'M SURPRISED YOU SAW THAT MUCH ...
HE-HE. ♥
I HID IN THE SHADOWS INSTEAD OF RUN-NING AWAY, AFTER ALL!
THEY DIDN'T FIND THE CAR, EITHER, SO REST ASSURED!
I'm not praising you...
OH!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, RON-KUN?! ARE YOU OKAY?!


I'M FINE. I HEAL QUICKLY.
...
I'M SO SORRY! I BET IT HURT, DIDN'T IT?
HUG
...!
OH, YEAH. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
NOT REALLY.
I COULD USE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, THOUGH.
I'M ON IT!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I HAVE YOUR HOUSE KEYS RIGHT HERE!
JINGLE
HUH?!
BE BACK IN A JIFFY!
NOOOOOO!
ODA-CHAN?!


SLAM
...THANK GOD SHE'S OKAY.
BUT...
205
KYOUKO AMAMIYA
PARDON ME...
PEEK


HMM...
SO THIS IS AMAMIYA-SAN'S ROOM!
HOW DULL CAN YOU GET?
湾岸戦争の今
WAR GRAPHIX
the WORLD
NOW, WHAT WAS I HERE FOR?
OH! HER CELL PHONE CHARGER!
I'LL JUST BRING HER EVERYTHING THAT SEEMS IMPORTANT.
TOSS TOSS
LASTLY...
SMIRK


RATTLE
A CHANGE OF CLOTHES!
I'LL FIND OUT HER SIZE!
WAFT
IT REEKS!
KOF
MY EYES ARE STINGING...
EEEEEK
AAHHHH
KYAHHHH!
FIRE!


SHRT
A FIRE?!
KOF
WHERE'S THE EN-TRANCE?!
KOF
KOF
!
GWOO
BAM
EEEEEK!



ドオオ
HOO
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS A LITTLE OVERBOARD?
HE TOLD US TO BE THOROUGH.
HUFF
TH-THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE...
EEP...


JUST FOLLOW SERGEANT MCPHERSON'S ORDERS!
MCPHERSON!
THEY KNOW RAIN'S TRUE IDENTITY!
BUT HOW?
CLAY'S CELL PHONE?
THIS IS BAD!
AMAMIYA-SAN IS IN DANGER!


TAISUKE'S HERE?
MMM...
HE SHOULD BE AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE.
KICK
KICK


GIVE IT UP, AOI. MAMA TOLD US TO BRING THEM.
...
...
KANOU IS LIVING HERE?


IT'S A NICE PLACE.
IS THAT WHY HE DOESN'T WANT TO COME HOME?
WHAT SHOULD I SAY TO HIM, THEN?
NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, I DON'T KNOW HOW I SHOULD FACE HIM.
OH, CRAP...


TAI-
NII!


OH...
TAI-NIIIIII!
BYOOM
GUH!
THERE HE IS.


...!
TAISUKE!
IT'S TRUE ...
HE'S REALLY ALIVE!
TAI-


SCUFF
SWISH
?!


THANK GOOD-NESS...
YOU AREN'T HURT ANYWHERE!
I'M SURE YOUKO-SAN...
...WILL BE DELIGHTED TO KNOW YOU'RE OKAY!
...
TAISUKE!

H-
HELLO THERE.
ARE YOU FRIENDS OF AOI'S?
...
SMIRK
HUH?

NO WAY! REI-NII INSISTED THAT WE BRING THEM ALONG!
OH?
LET'S GO, TAI-NII!
A-AOI?
...
...
WHAT'S GOING ON?


TWO YEARS AGO...
WHEN MOM BROUGHT TAISUKE HERE,
I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A CORPSE.
I CAN'T LET THIS BOY DIE.
I CAN'T.
TOO MANY COMRADES HAVE ALREADY DIED TODAY.


BUT,
WITH HIS WOUNDS VANISHED MORE THAN WE HOPED.
YET SOMEHOW ALL HIS BURNS HEALED WITHOUT LEAVING A SINGLE SCAR.
IT MADE ME REALIZE JUST HOW AMAZING COMRADES ARE.
HE HAS NO MEMORY.
PRETTY CRAZY,
DON'T YOU THINK?


...
THAT WAS QUICK, REI.
MOM!
!

WELCOME HOME.


YOU MUST BE NAMI-SAN AND YUTA-KUN.
I'M SORRY TO BRING YOU OUT HERE OUT OF THE BLUE,
PEEK
BUT THANK YOU FOR COMING.


THIS WOMAN IS "MOTHER."
SHE'S A COMRADE.
BUT...
HER AURA...
IT'S SO WARM.
Y-YUTA?


IT MUST HAVE BEEN SCARY.
YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING THIS WHOLE TIME...
...IF YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE BY RUNNING, HAVEN'T YOU?
BUT REMEMBER.
TAISUKE WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD YOU TO RUN.
?!


IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD ON YOU.
JUMP
?!
SNAP
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
WE WERE THE ONLY ONES THERE.
I CAN SEE THE DARK-NESS...
...THAT LIES IN PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
JUST LIKE KATSUMATA,
I, TOO, HOLD A FRAGMENT OF THE HEART.


A FRAGMENT OF THE HEART...?
PLEASE TELL US.
JUST WHAT IS ACRO'S HEART, ANYWAY?
SOMETHING MARVELOUS BEYOND THIS WORLD.
MADDEN-INGLY SO.
BUT THE MOMENT ONE OBTAINS IT...
...THEIR LIFE IS FORFEIT.
LIKE A DRUG ...
MUMBLE
ボソ…


ONLY ONE PERSON CAN CONTROL THE HEART.
KATSUMATA'S DUTY WAS TO RETRIEVE THE HEART AND DELIVER IT TO THEM.
FOR THAT PURPOSE, THE MEEK BOY, HIROSE, WAS CHOSEN TO BE AN EASILY CONTROLLED VESSEL.
BUT THE PLAN FAILED WHEN HIROSE WENT OUT OF CONTROL...
...AND ACRO'S HEART DISAP-PEARED.


THE HEART IS STILL ALIVE! I CAN STILL FEEL ITS PULSE!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT IT'S VERY WEAK.
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT THE HEART IS SLEEPING AS IT IS NOW.
I CAN'T SENSE ITS WILL AS I COULD BEFORE.
THE ONE...
THE ONE...?
...IS CURRENTLY WAITING FOR THE HEART'S RESUR-RECTION.
NEXT TIME, THEY'LL SURELY OBTAIN IT AND RECOVER UNMATCHED POWER.


IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL MEAN THE END OF THIS WORLD.
WE CAN'T LET THE HEART FALL INTO THEIR HANDS.
AT ANY COST.
THEN...
...WHAT IS YOUR OBJECTIVE?


MY OBJECTIVE IS TO SEAL ACRO'S HEART FOR GOOD.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST.


AND WE'D LIKE YOU GUYS TO HELP US.
WE'RE UNDER-MANNED AS THINGS STAND.
IN ORDER TO SEAL THE HEART, WE MUST FIRST OBTAIN IT OURSELVES.
AND TO DO THAT, I WANT TO BORROW TAISUKE'S POWER.


I WANT YOU TO HELP HIM REGAIN HIS MEMORY...
...AND RESTORE HIS POWER!
Chapter 39 / End

We are alive on this planet, and they arrived...

最終進化的少年


ALIVE
We are alive on this planet, and they arrived... THE FINAL EVOLUTION


OKAY, EVERY-ONE.
LISTEN VERY CLOSELY TO BIG SIS AOI.
THOSE TWO TALKING WITH MAMA RIGHT NOW ARE BAD PEOPLE WHO CAME TO KIDNAP TAI-NII.
WHAT?!
SO WE'RE GOING TO GET IN NAMI KUSUNOKI AND YUTA TAKIZAWA'S WAY AND PROTECT TAI-NII!
GOT IT?
GOT IT!


OKAY! DIG IN!
THANKS, TAI-NII!
Chapter 40
A Place to Call Home
Memory.

HELP TAISUKE REGAIN HIS MEMORY, HUH?
THE ONE IS WAITING FOR THE HEART'S RESUR-RECTION.
NEXT TIME, THEY'LL SURELY OBTAIN IT AND RECOVER UNMATCHED POWER.
AND IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL MEAN THE END OF THIS WORLD.
MY GOAL IS TO SEAL ACRO'S HEART FOR GOOD.
AND IN ORDER TO DO THAT...
I WANT YOU TO HELP TAISUKE RESTORE HIS POWER!


EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
Aren't we forgetting something?
What was it again?
TAISUKE SHOWS NO SIGN OF REMEMBERING ANYTHING.
SLURP
STARE
WH-WHAT?
SAY, YOUR BIG SISTER...
YOU MEAN...
...NAMI NEE-CHAN?
WHAT ABOUT HER?
SH-SHE'S CUTE, HUH?
SHE GRABBED MY HAND ALL OF A SUDDEN EARLIER.
Habba wwah?!
BADUMP


YOU THINK SHE'S INTO ME?
ONE THING'S FOR SURE. HE'S STILL AN IDIOT.
I THINK HE'LL REGAIN HIS MEMORY WITH A LITTLE PUSH.
LATELY HE'S BEEN ABLE TO REMEMBER BITS AND PIECES.
ESPE-CIALLY SINCE WE CAME TO JAPAN.
WHERE THE HEART SLEEPS...


AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE MAMA LADY AND HER KIDS ALL LIVE IN THIS TRAILER...
...WHICH THEY TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD WITH.
AT FIRST THEY TOOK TAISUKE FAR AWAY FROM THE HEART IN ORDER TO NURTURE HIM BACK TO HEALTH...
...BUT AS HIS WOUNDS HEALED, THEY CAME BACK TO JAPAN.
AFTER THE OLDEST DAUGHTER, ANZU, DETERMINED THE LOCATION OF THE HEART, THEY MOVED THEIR BASE OF OPERATIONS TO JAPAN.
ANZU MUST TAKE AFTER DADDY.
I'M NO GOOD WITH COM-PUTERS.


THEN THERE'S THE MOTHER IN QUESTION WHO HOLDS A FRAGMENT OF THE HEART,
YUKIE TEZUKA.
SHE HAS SEVEN KIDS.
WHAT'S MORE SHOCKING IS THAT THEY ALL HAVE DIFFERENT FATHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.
MOM'S ALWAYS HAD A BAD CASE OF WANDER-LUST.
SHE USED TO BE AWAY FROM HOME A LOT.
BUT TWO YEARS AGO...


...AFTER A FRAGMENT OF THE HEART FELL INTO MOM...
...SHE SUDDENLY BECAME MORE MOTHERLY.
TO BE HONEST,
I LIKE THE WAY MOM IS NOW.
BUT HEARING THAT...
...TEZUKA-SAN SMILED SADLY.
SHE SAID SHE REGRETS THAT TWO OF HER OWN CHILDREN...
...ENDED UP BECOMING COMRADES.



* Yuta is replacing the first character of Taisuke's name, which looks very similar to that for "dog". Dog barking sound in Japanese is *wan wan*.


...
YU...?
Y-YEAH?!
YU...?
Dog is the important bit?
!
I for-got!
OM はむ もぐ NOM
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT YUTA TAKIZAWA, OKAY?!
YUTA-KUN, HUH?
AND? DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE?
Why'd you say his full name?
しぃーーよ SHHH
しぃーー SHHH
...


YUTA WAS...
... SHORTER, I THINK?
THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS! YUTA TURNED TEN!
I'M IN FIFTH GRADE NOW!
AND I'M...?
KUSU-
Mrgh!
SNAP
THAT'S RIGHT ...
BACK THEN!
IN THE TENT!


C'MON, BOY♥
YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO SEDUCED ME WITH YOUR NUDE BODY?!
WH
ACK
HE'S FALSIFYING MEMORIES!
Why does he remember that, anyway?!
And I was in the middle of changing...
I THINK YOU KILLED HIM...
TAI-NIIIIII!
STILL NOTHING AFTER TAKING THAT KICK?
I made her mad.
Well, duh.
WEIRD... WAS THAT ALL IN MY HEAD?


HEY, MOM...
WOULDN'T IT BE QUICKER TO ASK YOU-KNOW-WHO FOR HELP?
NO...
I DON'T WANT TO GET REGULAR PEOPLE INVOLVED.
THIS IS A PROBLEM AMONGST US COMRADES.
I'M A REGULAR PERSON, TOO, Y'KNOW.


DAZE
YUTA AND NAMI, HUH?
A-ARE YOU STILL WORRIED ABOUT THEM?
Are you okay?
THEY'RE NOBODY TO YOU, TAI-NII! REALLY!
SHIFT
SHIFT
You shouldn't lick your wounds.
ELIZABETH COLLAR
OH ...
YOU'RE OUR IMPORTANT BIG BROTHER, TAI-NII!


FROM THE NEXT DAY ON,
WE TRIED VARIOUS THINGS TO TRY TO TRIGGER TAISUKE'S MEMORY...
...BUT NOTHING WAS VERY EFFECTIVE.
WITH NO PROG-RESS IN SIGHT...
...A WEEK PASSED.
CLACK

DING DONG
COM-ING!
DING DONG
I HAVE TO GO TO WORK SOON...
405
YOUKO/TAISUKE KANOU
CLACK
YES?
WHOOSH
?!
I-IS YUTA-KUN HERE?!
WHAT ABOUT NAMI-SAN?!


YOU TWO...
YOU'RE THE REPORTERS WHO CAME TO INTERVIEW ME BEFORE! WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT YUTA, NAMI, AND MY LITTLE BROTHER AREN'T HERE!
HUFF
THEY'RE NOT HERE, EITHER...?
HUFF
I...I'M BEING CHASED BY THE MILITARY.
HUH ...?
IT'S TRUE!
I WAS ATTACKED BY A SOLDIER...
...AND THEY SET MY APARTMENT ON FIRE.



THEY EVEN WENT TO MY WORK-PLACE ...
川病院
AMAMIYA-SAN! DON'T COME BACK TO THE OFFICE!
THE TWO FOREIGNERS WHO LIT YOUR APARTMENT UP ARE CASING THE PLACE!
THEY'RE WORKING FOR MCPHERSON!
I'M TERRIFIED ...
NAMI-SAN AND YUTA-KUN ARE THE ONLY ONES I CAN TURN TO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANY-MORE...
...
ALL BECAUSE I WAS CHASING AFTER ACRO'S HEART...


DING DONG
!
DING DONG


GWOH
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
KYOUKO AMAMIYA, HUH?


YOU'RE CERTAIN?
YEAH.
I STABBED HER IN THE CHEST, AND I FELT CONTACT...
...BUT THE NEXT DAY SHE WAS GONE AND HAS BEEN MISSING EVER SINCE.
FU-FU...
KE-KE-KE...
BAM


YOU SCREWED UP BIG TIME, SARGE!
THE CAPTAIN WAS VEEEERY ANGRY, YOU KNOW.
HIS FACE WAS SCARIER THAN YOURS.
HMPH



ROLL
YOU WENT AND SET HER APARTMENT ON FIRE WITHOUT EVEN BEING ORDERED TO?
AND STILL YOU LET HER ESCAPE!
!
COULD THIS AMAMIYA BE A COMRADE?
SNAP
SERGEANT! I WANT HER!
I WANT A LIVING COMRADE SPECIMEN!
SPROING
SPROING
I'M SURE IT'LL BENEFIT THE MILITARY!
DR. HORNER...
THE PROJECT YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF IS ONLY ONE SMALL INSTANCE.
THE MILITARY ISN'T RELYING THAT HEAVILY ON THE COMRADES FOR ITS WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT.


FU-FU...
I DISAGREE. THE HIGHER UPS DON'T SEE THINGS THAT WAY.
THAT'S WHY I'M PREPARING.
BEEP
THIS IS TURNING INTO A BIG PROJECT.
BEEP
BEEP




HUH?!
YOU CAN FEEL THE HEART'S PULSE, RIGHT, AOI?
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO IF I'M A COMRADE, TOO, HUH?
D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, TAI-NII!
C'MON! LET'S GO!
IT'S BEEN OVER A WEEK,
AND EVEN THOUGH TAISUKE REMEMBERS BITS AND PIECES OF THE PAST...
BAWWWW
It's her fault!
Nuh-uh! It's his!


...HE'S YET TO REMEMBER ANYTHING CRUCIAL.
...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, YUTA?
SKSH
SKSH
ABOUT WHAT?
I THINK IT MIGHT BE FOR THE BEST IF WE LEAVE KANOU LIKE THIS.


WHAT?!
IF HE REGAINS HIS MEMORY, HE'LL REMEMBER EVERYTHING, RIGHT?
INCLUDING HIROSE.
IF THEY END UP FIGHTING LIKE THAT AGAIN...
...HE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE NEXT TIME.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUKO-SAN?!
SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR HIM ALL THIS TIME!


DON'T GO ANYWHERE?
I MEAN, I DO LIKE IT HERE, BUT I AM BEING A FREELOADER; AND IF I FIND MY REAL HOME I PROBABLY WILL GO BACK SOMEDAY.
YUKIE-SAN SAID I'M FREE TO GO AFTER WE TAKE CARE OF THINGS.
N-NO! TAI-NII BELONGS HERE! MAMA'S A LIAR!
SHE'S A LIAR AND SO FORGETFUL THAT I'M SURE SHE EVEN FORGOT YOU'RE HER OWN SON!
AOI ...
OR IS THE REASON YOU WANNA LEAVE...


...BECAUSE YOU'RE SICK OF US, TAI-NII?
OF COURSE NOT!
YOU'VE ALL TAKEN SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME. I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!
I LIKE EVERY-ONE!
I'M HUNGRY.
ALRIGHTY! LET'S MAKE DINNER!
OKAY!
I'LL HELP!


CLACK
HOME, HUH...?
NAMI AND YUTA...
THOSE TWO KNOW ME.
AND I SHOULD KNOW THEM...


BUT EVERY TIME I TRY TO REMEMBER...
...ALL THAT WELLS UP...
...IS THE STENCH OF BLOOD.
IS THIS SOME AFTER EFFECTS OF THE BURNS?
SNIFF
SNIFF
OR COULD IT BE THAT I WAS REALLY A SCUMBAG COMRADE?
IF IT TURNS OUT THAT I WAS A MURDER-ER...
...I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD HANDLE THAT.


BUT FOR SOME REASON THE SMELL OF THIS ANTI-SEPTIC...
...IS ODDLY FAMILIAR.



TAISUKE!
SLAP
スパーン
OW!
YOUKO-SAN?!
WH- WHY ARE YOU HERE?!


GRAB
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...
...PRETENDING TO HAVE AMNESIA SO YOU CAN SCREW AROUND HERE?!
?!
THAT'S NOT THE TAISUKE I KNOW!
RATTLE
!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO REPEAT A GRADE, DUMMY!
SHAKE
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY YEARS IT'LL TAKE FOR YOU TO CATCH UP...
WITH YOUR EMPTY SKULL?!
SHAKE
?!


WHY DID YOU DISAP-PEAR FOR TWO WHOLE YEARS ...?
DON'T DIE, TAISUKE...


GWOOH
AHH
AHH


BAH
BAH
AAHH
BAH
AHH
AHH
BOOH
FLASH
BOOM


THUD
...


S-
SIS!
THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT ALL SORTS OF THINGS...
SO YOU WERE FAKING IT!
AH!
WUMP
NAMI! YUTA!


YOU GUYS HAVE...
...CHANGED BIG TIME!
APOLOGIZE TO THEM FIRST!
SLAP
OW!
What the hell?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU (AND I) PUT THEM THROUGH?!
SLAP
You big idiot! Dumb-ass!
GYAHHH!
WHAT IS TAISUKE'S SISTER DOING HERE?
ANZU?
...I SEE. THIS MUST BE REI'S DOING.


SORRY! I'M REALLY SORRY!
I'LL APOLOGIZE PROPERLY, SO GIVE ME A BREAK!


AND...
WELL ...
I'M BACK!



Chapter 40 / End

ALIVE

We are alive on this planet, and they arrived... THE FINAL EVOLUTION


BRING THAT ONE OVER, YUTA!
IT WEIGHS A TON!
SHEESH. HE'S IN FULL-BLOWN PARTY MODE.


THANK GOODNESS KANOU-KUN IS OKAY.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE HE ENDED UP LIKE HARU-CHAN...
C'MON! DON'T CRY, IRONING BOARD!
BUHHHHH!
NOW FOR THE FINALE...
WAIT, IF YOU LIGHT IT THERE...
FOOSH
...THE CAMP FIRE!
GAHHH!
GWOH
YOU DUMB-ASS!
I'M SO GLAD TAISUKE RECOVERED HIS MEMORY AND POWER.
Oh my. He's burnt to a crisp again.
...
AH-HA-HA-HA!
あははは
EEEEK!



Chapter 41

I Don't Want to be Alone

It requires more courage to suffer than to die.


JUST HOW MUCH DID SIS DRINK?
SOME-ONE GOT CARRIED AWAY...
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!
DO YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED WE'VE BEEN FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS?!
I WAS JUST SO HAPPY TO SEE EVERYONE AGAIN!
AND WE GOT TO DO FIREWORKS TOGETHER, SO IT'S NOT ALL BAD.


YOU REMEMBER THAT, TOO? I GUESS YOUR MEMORY REALLY HAS COMPLETELY RETURNED.
TOO BAD DYING DIDN'T CURE HIS IDIOCY!
AND YOU STILL TALK AS MUCH TRASH AS EVER. THE ONE WHO CALLS PEOPLE IDIOT IS THE REAL IDIOT!
OH? ARE YOU SURE YOU WANNA TALK TO ME THAT WAY?
WHISPER
NAMI NEE-CHAN IS SO LOVELY AND CUTE ...
AHHHH!
HISS
YOU THINK NAMI'S INTO ME?
EEEEEK!
?
SWISH
PTT PTT PTT PTT PTT



わさあ
FLAP
Hail me!
WA-HA-HA! IT FEELS LIKE I'VE RETURNED TO MY OLD HAUNTING GROUNDS!
Go buy me some ice cream!
WEAKNESS
Yuta sure cheered up.
わっさ
FLAP
わっさ
FLAP
Time to run...
OHHHH?
IDZ CURRY-KUN! WAN A DRINK?
I FOUND ANOTHER DRUNK!
And my name is Kanou...


CURRY-KUN. AHM SO GLAD YER ALIVE...
BUHHHH!
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, AMAMIYA-SAN?
WE~LL,
A LOT HAPPEN-ED.
ひー、
BUHHH
SHE'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU EVER SINCE THE HOKKAIDO INCIDENT.
I-is that right?
NOT TO MENTION, BECAUSE SHE'S BEEN CHASING AFTER ACRO'S HEART,
SHE'S BEING HUNTED BY SOLDIERS NOW!
WUZ WRONG WID BEING FLAT...?
ういー
UWEHHH


SOL- DIERS?!
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CHASING AFTER THE HEART? WHAT FOR?
WELL ...
ACRO'S HEART...
...IS CURRENTLY AT THE YOKOSUKA MILITARY BASE.
THE MILITARY BASE?


THE MILITARY RECOVERED ACRO'S HEART FROM THE ERUPTION SITE IN HOKKAIDO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR INTENTIONS ARE...
...BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO RETRIEVE THE HEART, NOW'S OUR ONLY CHANCE WHILE IT'S DORMANT.
TAISUKE, I WANT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS...
...TO TAKE BACK ACRO'S HEART.




YOU'RE FREE TO GO HOME ONCE YOU DO THAT.
Y-YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MILITARY, RIGHT?! EVEN IF IT'S FOR THE HEART, YOU WANT US TO FIGHT AN ENTIRE NATION?!
I'M AGAINST IT, AS WELL!
SCUFF
FROM WHAT ANZU GATHERED,
BARRING THE NAVY, THERE ARE ROUGHLY TWO THOUSAND SOLDIERS STATIONED AT YOKOSUKA BASE.
IT'S A VITAL COMMAND FACILITY FOR THE JAPAN-BASED AMERICAN NAVY.


IF YOU'RE GOING TO INFILTRATE THE BASE...
...YOU'D BETTER STEEL YOUR-SELVES.
TH-THAT'S INSANE! AMAMIYA-SAN WAS ALMOST KILLED!
YOU'D HAVE TO BE INSANE TO GO TO A PLACE FULL OF PROFES-SIONAL KILLERS!
ALL RIGHT.
I'M IN!


?!
SKFF
WHAT?! DO YOU REALLY UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SIGNING UP FOR?!
STAND
OF COURSE.
HIROSE IS THERE.
I HAVE TO GO.


KANOU... CAN YOU FEEL THE PULSE?
YEAH...
IT'S THE SAME AS WHEN I FACED HIROSE IN HOKKAIDO.
IT'S NOT AS STRONG AS BACK THEN...
WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO DUKE IT OUT AGAIN.
...BUT I KNOW HIROSE IS WITH THE HEART.


NEXT TIME, I CAN'T LOSE.
I STILL HAVE TO LOOK FOR MEGU, TOO.



I'LL GO, YUKIE-SAN.
I SEE ...
YOU HAVE MY THANKS.
...
...!
U-UMM ...
IN THAT CASE, YOU MIGHT WANT TO LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.


LISTEN TO THIS.
HUH...YOU GUYS ARE REPORTERS?
I'M SUR-PRISED YOU MANAGED TO GET INTO THE BASE!
WE HAD HELP FROM RON-KUN. HE'S THE ONE WHO TOOK THE PICTURES.
RON?!
THAT RECORDER WAS ON THE ENTIRE TIME HE WAS INSIDE.
HE WENT ALL ALONE? WHOA...
HUSH!




*Audio is in English


FWUMP
HUSTLE! HUSTLE!
DON'T FORGET THE MAP!
...
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY GOING NOW?!
FWUMP
UH-HUH!


THE MAP IS GONE...
!
TAP
...
TAP
TAP
KYAH!
SNATCH



L-LET GO OF ME, JUN-NII!
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
RUSTLE
AOI...? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MWAHHH
もふぁーっ
YOU LITTLE BRAT... YOU'RE GONNA MAKE US LATE!
MRRR
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO DIE IF YOU GO THERE!
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST FORGET ABOUT THE HEART?!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME, AOI. YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE INFIL-TRATION TEAM, ANYWAY.
I'M A COMRADE, TOO, Y'KNOW!
NOW, NOW.
AOI, WHY DON'T YOU STAY HERE WITH MAMA?
...
TAP


TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
AOI!
...
LEAVE HER. WE'RE GONNA BE LATE.



THEY'RE GONNA LEAVE ME BEHIND.
THEY'RE GONNA LEAVE ME BEHIND...
AOI ...?
GO AWAY!
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE, ANYWAY, TAI-NII!
YOUR MOM AND THE OTHERS ARE WAITING FOR YOU.
YEAH, RIGHT!
SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME!
AFTER ALL...
...SHE FORGOT ABOUT ME!


THIS IS MAMA...
SHE'S SO PRETTY.
YOU TAKE AFTER MOM THE MOST, AOI.
I HOPE I MEET HER SOON.
THIS'LL BE THE FIRST TIME YOU MEET MOM, HUH, AOI?
REALLY?!
SHE SAYS SHE'S COMING BACK NEXT WEEK FOR AOI'S BIRTHDAY.


19
Birthday
MAMA...
IS SHE HERE YET?
FIDGET
MAMA...
FIDGET
I'M SO HAPPY I FINALLY GET TO MEET HER.
Do I look weird?
BUT...
...I WONDER WHY SHE DOESN'T COME HOME MUCH?
MAMA!


OH, MY! WHAT A CUTE GIRL!
HELLO THERE!
I'M HOME! I HARDLY RECOGNIZE ANY OF YOU!
HAPPY BIRTH-DAY, ANZU!
IT'S NOT MY BIRTHDAY, MAMA.
IT'S AOI'S.
OH, GOSH! I DID GIVE BIRTH AGAIN! IS SHE ISHIKURA'S I WONDER?
I'M SORRY, AOI-CHAN!


IN THAT CASE, THESE ARE YOU FOR!
YOU'LL GROW INTO THEM, ANYWAY.
WELL, THEN. USE THIS AS MUCH AS YOU WANT, REI.
HUH? YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
I'M PREGNANT AGAIN, SO I'M GOING TO A GOOD PLACE FOR PRENATAL CARE!
SEE YOU LATER!


HEY, DON'T YOU WANT YOUR SHOES?
NO!
I'LL TAKE THEM, THEN.
RUFFLE
YOU CAN'T!
GIVE 'EM BACK!


GIVE 'EM BACK!
I HATE MAMA...
BUT YOU ALSO LOVE HER, RIGHT?
YOU WOULDN'T TAKE SUCH GOOD CARE OF THOSE SHOES IF YOU DIDN'T.
...
STAY HOME AND WATCH YOUR LITTLE SIBLINGS WITH YOUR MOM, OKAY?
LIAR...

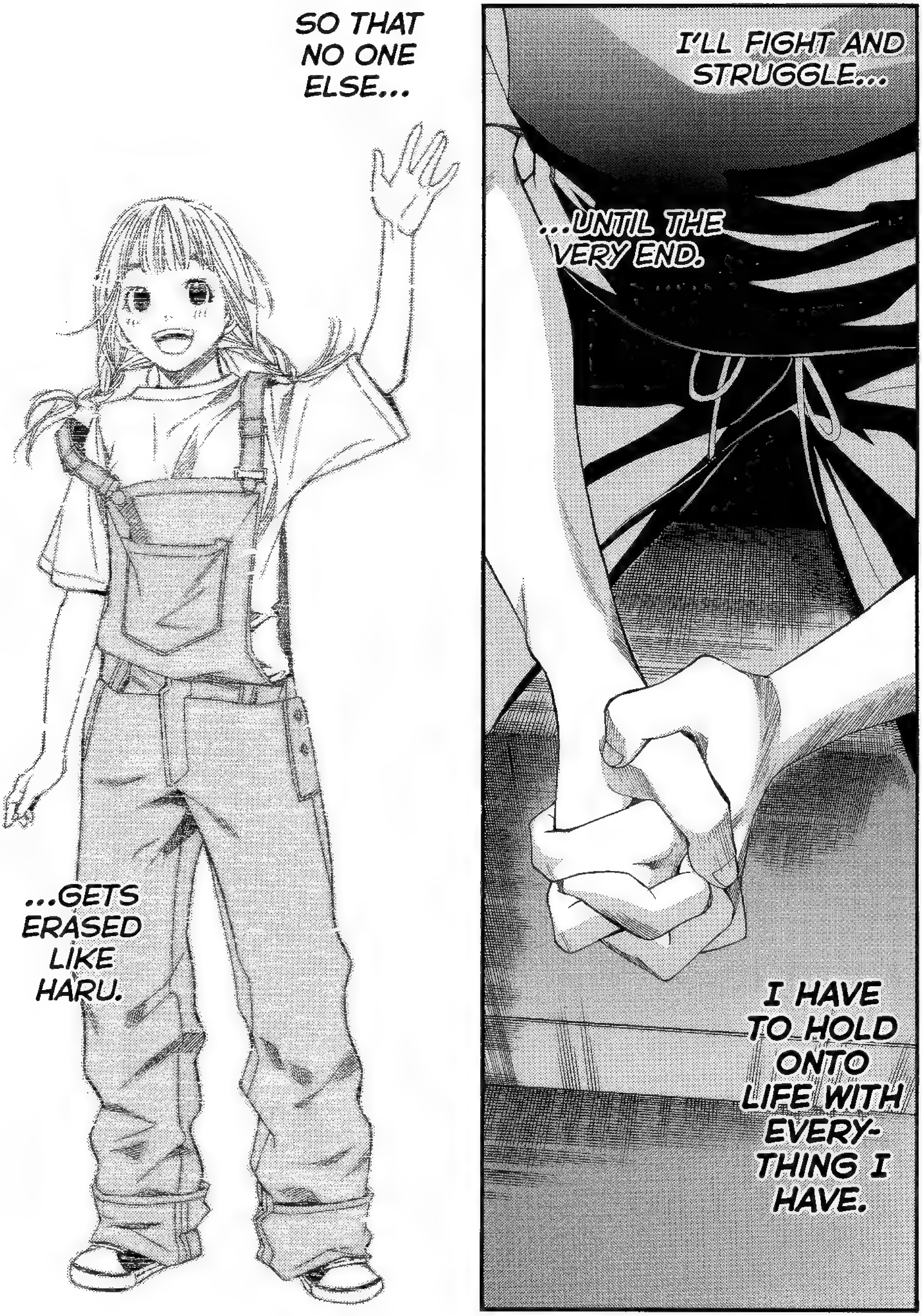

YOU ALWAYS TRICK KIDS AND GO OFF ON YOUR OWN LIKE THAT.
I KNOW YOU DID THE SAME THING TO YUTA AND NAMI!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE LEFT BEHIND, TAI-NII!
EVERY-ONE JUST TREATS ME LIKE A KID...
...


...I SEE.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
HOW IT FEELS TO BE LEFT BEHIND...
I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THAT.


HIROSE HOPES TO WIPE OUT EVERYTHING AND MAKE A WORLD WITH ONLY HIMSELF IN IT.
HE CAN DO IT. HE WILL DO IT.
BUT WHAT CAN I DO TO STOP HIM?
NOTHING AT ALL.
EVEN AFTER REALITY WAS THROWN IN MY FACE...
YOU'RE POWERLESS.
...I YEARNED FOR MORE.

I WANT TO PROTECT EVERY-THING.
I DON'T WANT EVERYONE TO DISAPPEAR.
I DON'T WANT TO RUN IF IT MEANS BEING ALL ALONE!
AT THE TIME, THAT WAS THE MOST I COULD MANAGE.
BUT IF YUKIE-SAN HADN'T SAVED ME...
IF I'D DIED THAT DAY...
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO SIS?
THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND...
...ARE ALL ALONE.


I...
DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE.
AND YET I LEFT SIS ALL ALONE...
I'M THE WORST KIND OF IDIOT...
I KILLED OUR PAR-ENTS.
I KILLED HIROSE.
OR FAILED TO KILL HIM.
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO CHOOSE HOW I DIE.


I'LL FIGHT AND STRUGGLE...
...UNTIL THE VERY END.
I HAVE TO HOLD ONTO LIFE WITH EVERY-THING I HAVE.
SO THAT NO ONE ELSE...
...GETS ERASED LIKE HARU.

I'M GOING, AOI.
I HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS.
I'M NOT GOING THERE TO DIE.
SO WAIT HERE AND DON'T WORRY.


I'LL STAY HERE WITH THE KIDS.


I'M A COMRADE, BUT MY POWER ISN'T SUITED FOR COMBAT.
I'LL JUST BE IN THE WAY IF I GO WITH YOU.
AND I WON'T LET AOI GO.
SHE'S NEVER BEEN IN A FIGHT BEFORE.
PLEASE RUN AWAY IF IT GETS TOO DANGER-OUS.
STAY SAFE, EVERYONE...


I WANTED TO GO WITH THEM.
NO, YOU'RE STILL A CHILD.
YUTA'S A KID, TOO!
YOU'RE A GIRL...
WHAT ABOUT NAMI, THEN?!


WON'T ANY COMRADE WHO TOUCHES THE HEART DIE?!
WHY DID YOU LET THEM GO SOME-WHERE LIKE THAT?!
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
!
I DUNNO WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT HEARTS OR LIVERS OR WHATEVER...
...BUT I KNOW THEY'LL COME HOME SAFE!

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH THIS?
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE ...
...HAD THE POWER TO STOP THEM.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. THAT AMAMIYA LADY FILLED ME IN FOR THE MOST PART.
NOT THAT I BELIEVED ANY OF IT.
BUT HAVING COME THIS FAR, ALL I CAN DO IS ACCEPT IT.


HOW CAN I STOP HIM?
MY LITTLE BROTHER IS TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD.
LET HIM BE THE HERO, THEN!


What a cutie.
THANKS FOR YELLING AT TAISUKE, AOI-CHAN.
!
AND YUKIE-SAN...
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU LOOKING AFTER TAISUKE ALL THIS TIME.
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE REALLY ADORES YOU.
THANK YOU.
TAKE CARE!


THIS IS WHY...
CLENCH
...I DIDN'T WANT TO MEET HIS FAMILY.
Chapter 41 / End


ALIVE
We are alive on this planet, and they arrived... THE FINAL EVOLUTION


LIGHT VISUAL MANGA 11
WE'RE SHORT ON PAGES THIS TIME, SO WHY DON'T WE INTRODUCE OURSELVES?
WE MOSTLY LIVE OUT OF THIS TRAILER.
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN WE LIVED WITH DADDIES OR OUT OF HOTELS.
REI'S DADDY BOUGHT IT FOR US.
BY THE WAY, REI IS 36 AND HIS HOBBY IS FIXING CARS.
IT'S NOT A HOBBY! AND I'M 28!
...
JUN IS 27 AND HIS HOBBY IS TOILET TIME.
...
ANZU IS 16 AND SHE LIKES ONLINE GAMES.
AOI IS 10.
BYOOM
BYOOM
SHE LOVES TO RUN.
SPRINT
THESE THREE ARE OSOMATSU, KARAMATSU AND CHORO-MATSU.
THEY'RE 5, 4 AND 3 RESPEC-TIVELY.
HANG ON! YOU'RE GONNA HAVE THREE MORE KIDS?!
※ I think they have real names...


THEN HOW OLD IS MOM?
TAI-SUKE ...
THE TRUTH IS, YOU'RE NOT MY CHILD.
So how old are you?
I FOUND YOU UNCONSCIOUS AND ON THE VERGE OF DEATH IN THE FOREST AND NURSED YOU BACK TO HEALTH.
WHAT?!
SHOCK
ガーン
THIS IS THE FIRST PICTURE OF A PIANO YOU DREW.
I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORY OF THIS!
ANYWAY, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU LAY YOUR HANDS ON MY GIRLS.
Of course I won't.
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO TALK!
TAI-NII!
Where are you?!
SPRINT
TINY, SHE SAYS. WHAT A FITTING NICKNAME.
Be thankful you're not one of hers.
PAT
I'M FAIR GAME, THOUGH.
BEWARE OF MAMA.
Our family slogan...
Thank you so much for reading until the end!

ALIVE 11

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Translation by Adam Hirsch
Lettering by Jan Lan Ivan Concepcion
Editing by Alexandra Swanson
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BEEP
BEEP
WE DEPART TONIGHT! WHAT ARE YOU BUMBLING AROUND FOR?!
DR. HORNER!


BE QUIET, CAPTAIN! THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT!
This quack...
COULD IT BE FEELING ANGER? NO...
THE HEART'S PULSE SUDDENLY GOT STRONGER LAST NIGHT!
GWEEEE
IT'S BEATING LIKE AN ALARM...
SKRIT
IT'S AS IF THE HEART IT TREMBLING WITH JOY!
...WITH SO MUCH INTENSITY I FEAR IT MIGHT BURST!
SKRIT


BADUMP
BADUMP
Chapter 42
Who Else?
War is much too serious a thing to be left to military man.



TAISUKE!
はっ
SNAP
ザザッ
WHOOSH
ザッ…
FWOO
COME DOWN! WE'RE GONNA HAVE A MEETING!
BE RIGHT THERE!
SHEESH...
He's totally spaced out.


LISTEN UP! WE'RE ABOUT TO INFILTRATE A MILITARY BASE...
...IN ORDER TO RECOVER THE HEART!
UMM...
I'M JUST A HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL. CAN I REALLY FIGHT AGAINST TRAINED SOLDIERS?
AND I'M JUST A GRADE-SCHOOLER!
OM NOM
I'm just a reg-ular old human, y'know...


IT'S NOT LIKE WE REALLY NEED TO FIGHT.
THUD
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TAKE BACK THE HEART.
...
Rei-nii, you're smoking too much.
Buzz off. I need this.
HE MAKES IT SOUND LIKE NOTHING.
WE'RE ABOUT TO DIVE INTO A NEST OF COMBAT PRO-FESSIONALS, YOU KNOW.

FIRST WE'LL CHANGE INTO THESE!
WELL? ARE YOU COMING OR NOT?
WE'LL STICK WITH YOU UNTIL THE END!
!
SNATCH

YOU HAVE SOME DEPEND-ABLE FRIENDS.
HUH?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GETUP, NAMI?!


Huh? Everyone else looks normal...
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I JUST CHANGED INTO THE CLOTHES YOU GAVE ME.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ACTUALLY WEAR IT!
You're so spacey.
WHY A SCHOOL UNIFORM?
TAISUKE...
YOU DIDN'T BRING MOM'S PRIVATE WARD-ROBE BY MISTAKE, DID YOU?
I was young.
?!
THIS IS, UHH, COS-PL-
A MYSTERI-OUS HIGH SCHOOL GIRL DISGUISE!
NOT MUCH OF A DIS-GUISE...


LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
M-my brain...
We're friends, right?
THE PLAN ITSELF IS SIMPLE, BUT DANGEROUS.
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS.
IN ORDER TO TRANSPORT THE HEART...
...WE'LL NEED TO MOVE IT OUT OF THE SAFETY VAULT!

AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE?
YEAH. IN ORDER TO SHIP THE HEART BACK HOME...
WE HAVE TO MOVE THE HEART FROM THE ISLAND TO THE PORT SO WE CAN LOAD IT ONTO THE SHIP.
MAN-MADE ISLAND (HEART)
SHIPS CAN'T DOCK AT THAT MAN-MADE ISLAND.


THE SAME ROUTE WAS USED TO MOVE THE HEART TO THE ISLAND, DR. HORNER.
I SEE...
I TRUST THE TRANSPORTATION WILL BE SECURE?
MAN-MADE ISLAND (HEART)
PORT
THE 7TH ARMADA WILL BE IN CHARGE OF TRANSPORTATION. THEY'RE THE MOST SECURE FREIGHT ON THE OCEAN.
MAN-MADE ISLAND (HEART)
SQUEAK
PORT
THANKFULLY FEW PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE THAT CONNECTS THE MAN-MADE ISLAND TO THE PORT.


EVERYTHING WILL GO SMOOTHLY IF WE KEEP SECURITY TIGHT.


HOW'S THE NIGHT DEPARTURE GOING?
YAWN
I'D SWEAR IT'S DAYTIME WITH HOW BUSY WE ARE.
HUFF
HUFF
BUSY IS ONE THING...
...BUT WHY ARE THERE SO MANY GUARDS POSTED?
BEATS ME! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE OFF DUTY TODAY.
WELL, HANG IN THERE. I'LL BUY YOU A DRINK AFTER WE'RE DONE.
ACHOO


!
YEAH? LET'S DRINK AT MY PLACE THEN.
HEY... AREN'T THEY THEY ARMY'S...?
OH, YEAH...
THEY'RE WITH THE SPECIAL FORCES!


I HEARD THEY WERE COMING TO GUARD THE FREIGHT TONIGHT, BUT...
MAKES ME SICK!
THAT'S SOME ESCORT.
WHAT'S BEING TRANSPORTED, ANYWAY?
HUFF
HUFF
HELL IF I KNOW!
THEY DON'T TELL US GRUNTS ANYTHING!
NO TRESPASSING
VRUM


...HM?
CLEAR!
HEY! DON'T STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET, KID!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THIS...?
SCREECH


SWISH...
AH-HA-HA!
HUH...?
HE DISAPPEARED?!
CREAK
A bug?


WAHHH!
?!
WH-WHO THE HELL IS THAT?!


ザッ
CHIK
FREEZE!
AH! OH,
CRAP!
?!
DUMBASS!
WHAT ARE
YOU...?


CHZZZT
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?
CHATTER
Clement Blvd.
CHATTER
BACK TO YOUR HOMES!
BOOM
THE FIRST ONE SOUNDED LIKE A CANNON.
I'LL CONFIRM THE SITUATION, SO EVERYONE GET BACK INSIDE.



Clement Blvd.
?!
THE COMPLEX...!
IT DISAPPEARED!
WHAT?!
HOW?!
LISTEN UP. FIRST WE'LL SPLIT INTO TWO TEAMS.


JUN AND YUTA WILL BE THE DIVERSION SQUAD.
SNEAK INTO THE RESIDENTIAL AREA THROUGH THE GATE AND WREAK HAVOC.
GENERAL MESS
DURING THE COMMOTION, ME, TAISUKE AND NAMI WILL INFILTRATE THE BASE.
IT'S GAME OVER IF THEY GET THE HEART ONTO THE SHIP.
AIM FOR THE UNDER-GROUND PASSAGE WHERE SECURITY IS LOOSEST AND RECOVER THE HEART!
SZZ


MAN-MADE ISLAND
(HEART)
JUN AND YUTA, STAND BY IN THE CAR AFTER YOU CAUSE ENOUGH CHAOS.
IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL, WE'LL BE BACK SOON.
THEN WE'LL MAKE OFF WITH THE HEART!
PORT
ME, TAISUKE, NAMI
YUTA, JUN
JUN-KUN!
BZZT
BZZT
!
I SEALED OFF THIS AREA! GO NUTS!
...


BZZT
BAM
SNAP
SHOOM


A POWER OUTAGE?
WHAT'S GOING ON THIS TIME?!
GRR
CAPTAIN!
WE'RE STILL INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE.
THE ELECTRONICS ARE DOWN, SO WE'RE UNABLE TO GET A HANDLE ON THE SITUATION OUTSIDE.
ALL WE KNOW IS THAT WE HAVE AN INTRUDER.
IS THAT RIGHT? THEY'VE GOT SOME GUTS TO COME AT A TIME LIKE THIS!


ALL FREE HANDS ARE TO MOVE THERE ON THE DOUBLE!
RAISE SECURITY AROUND THE GATE!
WEEN
AND JUST BEFORE WE LOAD THE HEART ONTO THE SHIP...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU SPEND SO MUCH TIME PLAYING POLITICS BEHIND A DESK...
THAT YOU GET CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY A DIVERSION LIKE THIS.
TMP TMP
LET THE INSUF-FERABLE CAPTAIN TAKE CARE OF THINGS OUTSIDE.
WE'LL WAIT HERE AND ENGAGE THE COMRADES.
D4.
FLICK
WHO ELSE COULD IT BE BUT THE COMRADES?


YES, SIR!
ダッ
TMP
ダッ
TMP
ダッ
TMP
WOO
ダダダ…
TMP TMP TMP


TCH! THE LIGHTS ARE BACK UP... I GUESS JUN WASN'T ABLE TO TAKE OUT THE BACKUP GENERATOR.
BUT SECURITY DID THIN OUT HERE AS WE PLANNED.
OVER THERE.
IT LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR OLD WARE-HOUSE...
...BUT IT'S ACTUALLY THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDER-GROUND PASSAGE.


I CAN SEE THREE GUARDS FROM HERE.
CAN YOU GUYS TAKE 'EM OUT WITH YOUR POWER?
I WANT TO AVOID USING IT ON PEOPLE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
WE'LL STAND OUT, AND THINGS COULD TAKE A BAD TURN.
IN THAT CASE...
HUH?



* Nami is speaking broken English.


BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE MANAGED TO DISTRACT THEM.
THEY HAVE NO IDEA THERE'S A BEAST INSIDE OF HER...
CREEP
CREEP
HURRY UP!
HEY! WHAT'S A JAPANESE STUDENT DOING HERE, ANYWAY?
AH, IT'S FINE!
WHY DON'T WE GO INSIDE? IT'S DANGEROUS OUT HERE.
ベタベタ
TOUCHY
さわさわ
FEELY
RUB
なでっ
C'MON.


WHACK
FOOM
CRACK


スッ
スッ
THUD
ーン
...
PHEW ...
THAT'S NAMI FOR YOU! SHE TOOK OUT THREE SOLDIERS SINGLE-HANDEDLY...
CHIK
GET OVER HERE!
!
THANKS TO THAT WE HAVE A GUN NOW.


NAMI! BEHIND YOU!
!
WHOOSH
FREEZE, TERRORISTS!


I SAID FREEZE!
DROP THE GUN!
THERE WAS ANOTHER GUARD?!
WHISH
...
PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD
TCHK
GET DOWN ON THE GROUND!
HURRY UP!


TAP
SLAP


?!
THUD
HRRRGH!
GWEE
CLENCH
HUUUUH?!
DON'T POINT GUNS AT PEOPLE!
AND FOR STARTERS...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING!
AIMU JAPAN (I'M JAPAN)! REMEMBER THAT!
TAISUKE...
You mean "Japanese".

THINGS HAPPENED TO WORK OUT THIS TIME...
...BUT DON'T JUST ACT ON YOUR OWN LIKE THAT!
YOU COULD'VE GOTTEN THE BOTH OF YOU KILLED!
KANOU ...
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM MOVE LIKE THAT.
WHAT WAS THAT...?
SCRIT SCRIT
TAP


JUN'S BEEN TRAINING TAISUKE THE PAST TWO YEARS.
JUN-SAN?
JUN SHUT HIMSELF UP AT A TEMPLE IN ASIA IN ORDER TO "CULTIVATE HIS MIND."
APPARENTLY HE LEARNED MARTIAL ARTS DURING THAT TIME.
BUT REALLY, HE SECLUDED HIMSELF TO THE MOUNTAINS BECAUSE HE HATES PEOPLE.


I GUESS...
KANOU CHANGED, TOO.
GWOH
WE'RE CLOSE.
HIROSE!


THREE INTRUDERS SPOTTED.
ONE CONFIRMED TO BE A COMRADE.
FZT
FLICK
WHAT A PAIN...
WHY DON'T WE JUST BLOW UP THE WHOLE TUNNEL?
IT'S FINE, D3.
BUT IT'S A SUREFIRE WAY TO TAKE THEM OUT.
NO CAN DO.
THE DAMAGE WILL BE TOO GREAT AND IT WILL MAKE TRANSPORTING THE HEART HARDER.


THE CAPTAIN WANTS US TO CAPTURE THEM ALIVE.
ALSO...
...IT WOULD BE RUDE NOT TO WELCOME THEM PERSONALLY.
CLACK
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MCPHERSON!


OUR GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED.
LET'S SHOW THEM SOME HOSPITALITY.
To be continued in volume 12.